

**Environmental Management (EM)
Nevada Program Activities
Monthly Report to the
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
March 2021**

In February 2021, the EM Nevada Program continued to operate in a posture of adjusted operations. Effective March 3, 2021, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the implementation of a new COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan, which prioritizes the use of telework and limits physical access to DOE sites and facilities to mission-essential employees whose duties are required to be performed on-site. EM Nevada Program has taken steps to adopt the Workplace Safety Plan, but no significant adjustments are expected to the Program's standing operational posture. The EM Nevada Program will continue to closely monitor data reported by the State of Nevada, the Southern Nevada Health District, and other public health agencies with employee health and safety remaining the top priority.

Limited Program travel continues to be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis, primarily for Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) facility evaluations and oversight, as local conditions permit. EM Nevada crews are currently performing field work. The Program continues to meet its commitments to stakeholders through virtual and/or in-person meetings (i.e., NSSAB, Low-Level Waste [LLW] Stakeholders Forum, State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP], etc.) In an abundance of caution, EM Nevada Program has opted to extend its transition of all Program-hosted public events to a virtual format through at least May 31, 2021.

External Affairs

- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
 - Hosted LLW Stakeholders Forum via virtual meeting (NSSAB representatives attended) – February 3, 2021
 - Hosted Federal Facilities Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) Annual Meeting with NDEP, Office of Legacy Management, and Defense Threat Reduction Agency via virtual meeting – February 3, 2021
 - Conducted Subject Matter Expert (SME) review of Pahute Mesa Flow Model with NDEP and Nye County via virtual meeting – February 18, 2021
- Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) tours:
 - Per National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO), all site tours have been cancelled until further notice
- Publications:
 - Produced a demonstration of hydrogeologic principles at work at the NNSS (also known as the “Ant Farm” demonstration that is traditionally presented in the classroom setting) for a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-curriculum request from the organizers of Waste Management Symposia)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmHCFoRXd7M&feature=youtu.be>

- Planned activities for March 2021:
 - Present session, *How Unique Challenges Led to New Approaches in Nevada: Insights on the Implementation of Risk-Informed Decision-making and the Development of a Culture of Collaboration*, by Navarro Program Manager; present poster session, *Nevada Corrective Action Site Closure Process – DOE and Regulatory Perspectives*, by Navarro Environmental Specialist; featured in session, *Overcoming Challenges During Site Transition Through Planning: Transition Sites at Tonopah Test Range*, by DOE Office of Legacy Management during Waste Management Symposia via virtual meeting (NSSAB Chair to attend) – March 8-12, 2021
 - Conduct National Academy of Sciences review of EM Nevada Program activities via virtual meeting – March 15-16, 2021
 - Host NSSAB Full Board Meeting via virtual meeting – March 17, 2021
 - Host EM Nevada Program Intergovernmental Meeting via virtual meeting (NSSAB leadership invited) – March 17, 2021
 - Conduct Waste Coordination Leadership Group Meeting with EM HQ and NDEP via virtual meeting – March 24, 2021
 - Publish article and social media on two EM Nevada Program recipients of Secretary’s Honors Awards in NNSS News and EM Update Newsletter
 - Publish article and social media on EM Nevada Program Strategic Vision in NNSS News
 - Publish article and social media highlighting EM Nevada Program’s participation at Waste Management Symposia in NNSS News

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- Update from previous reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator #2: In August 2020, a tabletop facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. In January 2021, the generator submitted its correction action plan (CAP) to the RWAP. In February 2021, RWAP requested clarifications regarding the CAP from the generator. (please see September 2020, December 2020 – February 2021 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous reports – Portsmouth, OH generator: In November 2020, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. In February 2021, RWAP approved the generator’s CAP that is to be completed in early May 2021. (please see December 2020 – February 2021 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- In December 2020, an Oak Ridge, TN generator shipped a waste stream to the NNSS that exceeded the Radioactive Waste Permit (RWP) limits (i.e., worker protection limits) for that shipment. As a result, NNSS disposal operations paused work, reassessed the situation, changed to an RWP for the detected radiation level, and restarted unloading/disposal operations for the shipment. Because the shipment exceeded expected radiological levels, RWAP issued a Finding to the generator. In February 2021, the EM Nevada Program suspended the specific waste stream. The generator cannot ship the waste for disposal until the generator submits a CAP that is approved by the RWAP and the suspension is lifted.
- Update from previous report – Idaho Falls, ID generator: In February 2021, a mixed (MLLW) verification resulted in no Findings. (please see February 2021 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information)

- Update from previous report – Oak Ridge, TN generator: In February 2021, a MLLW verification was delayed and will be rescheduled. (please see February 2021 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information)
- In February 2021, the RWAP conducted two facility evaluations:
 - Oakland, CA generator: An in-person facility evaluation for waste stored in a San Antonio, TX facility resulted in one Finding that the generator will have 30 days to respond to after receiving the RWAP final report.
 - Amarillo, TX generator: A tabletop facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.
- In March 2021, the RWAP will conduct three facility evaluations.
- In March 2021, approximately 69,318 cubic feet of LLW, MLLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 101/102, Pahute Mesa

In February 2021, the resolution of comments from the internal technical review on the Pahute Mesa Transport Data Document continued, and DOE review will begin in March 2021.

Industrial Sites

CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells

CAU 577 comprises five Corrective Action Sites (CASs) located at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex. In February 2021, the final Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was submitted to and approved by NDEP.

Post-Closure Monitoring

Groundwater Post-Closure Monitoring

NDEP comments received on the Yucca Flat/Climax Mine (CAU 97) Closure Monitoring Report were resolved in February 2021, and the revised document was submitted to NDEP for approval. In February 2021, preparation continued on the Post-Closure Monitoring Report for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (CAU 99).

Non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance performed in accordance with closure requirements. The annual inspections were completed in December 2020; maintenance and repairs identified during the annual inspections will continue throughout the calendar year.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Quarterly inspections will be conducted in March 2021.